



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Recreation Commission Minutes 06/12/2007

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Approved July 24, 2007

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, June 12 2007.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, and Nancy Campbell. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included Chuck Carney, Justine Bloch, Andrew Leonard, Sue Jenson, John Larner and Karen Coleman

Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the May 16, 2007 minutes. Mr. Vitters and Ms. Mayer amended the minutes of May 16th, 2007. The vote on the minutes was tabled.

International School of Boston Field Request

Ms. Jenson from the International School of Boston reviewed their request to use Robbins Farm Field on Sunday, September 9, 2007 with a rain date of Sunday, September 16, 2007. Mr. Connelly reviewed the need for custodial services at the Brackett School for bathrooms, a police detail and certification of liability. Mr. Connelly informed the Commission that he did have a discussion with Jim Dodge of the Department of Public Works concerning trash removal. Mr. Dodge provided a price for a trash pick-up detail. Mr. Dodge did not have a preference of whether or not a detail should be provided for large private functions or the groups were responsible for taking their own trash with them.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the permit with the following conditions:

1. School Department permitted the Brackett School for restroom facility use.
2. A certificate of insurance was provided naming the Town of Arlington as additional insured.
3. A police detail was secured.
4. The permitted group would be responsible for removing their own trash.

Mr. Vitters seconded the motion and the motion was approved 3-0.

International School of Boston Request Parenter School

The Commission discussed this request with Mr. Larner. The Commission discussed the ownership of the two playgrounds. Mr. Connelly will try to clear this up prior to the next meeting.

This item was tabled for a later meeting so more information could be gathered.

Bishop School Playground Design Review

Mr. Leonard reviewed the revised Bishop School Playground plan and cost estimates. Mr. Leonard explained that he modified the existing plan slightly for some fall zone requirements and compacting the equipment area as much as possible. Mr. Leonard explained that his findings were that the Goric play equipment chosen was very unique but also very expensive.

Mr. Leonard reviewed the estimated budget and then the comparison in savings with a community build. Mr. Leonard, Ms. Bloch and the Commission discussed the different types of community build options.

Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Leonard if he thought about a phasing approach. Mr. Leonard stated that the project could be phased by doing the tire playground first and then the lower playground. Mr. Leonard indicated that fixed cost of equipment and site prep for phase one would be approximately \$85,000.

Ms. Bloch state that through fundraising efforts they have been able to raise approximately \$80,000 so far as well as the donation for some excavating work.

Mr. Leonard stated that if the plans were approved immediately it would be a 6-week documentation phase, bidding phase and then the contracting phase. At earliest he believes the project could not begin until late September.

The Commission discussed forming a working group with Mr. Leonard, Mr. Connelly and any and all parent volunteers.

Mr. Connelly will once again check with John Maher concerning the liability issues.

Request for Bench at Thorndike Field – Karen Coleman

Arlington resident, Ms. Coleman reviewed her request with the Commission to donate a bench to the Town for Thorndike Field in honor of her son's soccer coach. Ms. Coleman stated that she was representing 18 families for this request. Ms. Coleman reviewed the bench style and the recommended site. Mr. Connelly agreed that the site chosen would be the most appropriate site so that not to interfere with the different field orientations. The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Mayer indicated her concern that a plan should be developed indicating how many benches should be placed on site and where they should go prior to accepting of gifts. Ms. Campbell indicated that she believed this could be precedent setting and that many more requests would follow. Mr. Vitters indicated that he felt it was a good idea, but a review of the site was necessary. Mr. Connelly also raised the question as to whether or not installation would be done by the Town or the donor. Ms. Mayer also indicated that a decision has to be made whether or not to have pads or not have pads. The Commission will commit to review the site and start the development of a plan.

Request for Bench at Spy Pond – Susan Lahaie

Mr. Connelly explained that this request had been going on for a while and that it has received approval from the Memorial Names Committee. Mr. Connelly expressed Mr. Carabello's recommendation is for approval. The request is to place a plaque on an existing bench. The Commission asked that we give the family an option to donate funds to the park if they would like to do so. The Commission discussed the request.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Mr. Carney from the Bishop School Parents Playground Committee entered the meeting. The Commission and Mr. Carney reviewed Mr. Leonard's findings and the plan going forward.

Rink Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the results of the chiller bid opening and the current special events taking place the rink.

Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly stated that the reservoir was all set to open on Saturday, June 16th and summer programming registration was ongoing.

Special Event Approvals

Arlington Hockey Club – Summer Street Field and Basketball Court, August 28, 2007 – 4 PM – Dusk

Ms. Campbell motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Robbins Farm

July 4, 2007 – 5 PM – Midnight

August 12 – 2 PM – 8 PM

August 24 – 5 PM – 11 PM

September 13 – 10 AM – 5 PM

September 14 – 5 PM – 11 PM

The Commission discussed the request for special events for the Friends of Robbins Farm. The Commission stated they would like a police detail for the evening and the portable restrooms must be removed the same night of the event.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 3-0.

Project Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current projects including Bishop, Menotomy, Buzzell and Wellington Park. The Commission discussed the timetable of Bishop. Mr. Connelly stated that the project is about a week behind schedule. Mr. Connelly stated that the Menotomy Rocks project was behind as well but making up ground this week. Mr. Connelly told Mr. Vitters that the Buzzell Field project was scheduled to start after the week of July 4th.

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Vitters will choose the sites for the remaining field signs and let DPW know.

Mr. Connelly shared the request with the Commission from Little League to skin the Ottoson Field infield. The Commission agreed that this made sense based on the usage of the field. Mr. Connelly will give DPW the go ahead.

Committee Updates

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer reviewed the information from the Friends of Park Committee meetings. Mr. Connelly explained the desire to raise funds and Ms. Mayer outlined the draft process.

Ms. Campbell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters, and approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

Respectively Submitted by:

Joseph J. Connelly
Director of Recreation